

# Worth Growing Old

By Doug Irving & Gary Randolph



## Theme and Purpose

In this family sketch, Grandma says that the aches and pains of growing older are more than compensated for by spending time with her daughter and grand-daughter. One of the messages of Christmas is that Jesus felt the same way, leaving the glory of heaven and taken on human form so that he could be Emmanuel – God with us – and we could eventually be with him.

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<b>Cast list</b>	Lois - grandmother (50s or 60s) Amy – mother (30s) Ashley (pre-teen, maybe as young as six or seven)
<b>Approximate Running Time</b>	6 minutes
<b>Scene Description</b>	Lois's kitchen.
<b>Prop List</b>	Cookie cutters, aprons, rolling pin and other baking tools, CD player, CD with Dance of the Sugar Plum Fairy, 3 tiaras.
<b>Other Production Notes</b>	For pictures of ballet positions, see <a href="http://www.artofballet.com/class2.html">http://www.artofballet.com/class2.html</a> or search the web for "ballet positions."
<b>Related Scriptures</b>	Gen. 3:9, Ecc. 3:4; Isaiah 7:14; John 15:13
<b>Song Suggestions</b>	That Where I Am, There You ... (Rich Mullins); Emmanuel (Bob McGee)

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*Grandma, Amy, and Ashley are in the kitchen baking cookies. They are all wearing aprons. Ashley is icing a cookie.*

**Amy:**

Go easy on the icing there, Ashley.

**Ashley:**

I like icing.

**Lois:**

Oh, I do, too. I always say you can never have too much icing.

*Ashley holds up the cookie as she finishes it.*

**Amy:** *(simultaneously with Ashley holding up the cookie)*

Mom!

**Ashley:**

What do you think?

**Lois:**

Beautiful, dear! Just beautiful. That's almost too good to eat.

**Ashley:** *(disappointed)*

Oh.

**Lois:**

Just kidding. Let's split it.

*They split the cookie in half and start eating it.*

**Amy:**

Don't eat all the cookies now. We're going out to eat after the ballet.

**Lois:**

The ballet! I'm so excited. I haven't seen the Nutcracker since you were little, Amy.

*Ashley goes back to working on the cookies while the other two talk.*

**Amy:**

Every year I wore my best Sunday dress. And I remember you always wore your pretty pearl earrings.

**Lois:**

It seems like there was always a fresh snow.

**Amy:**

I remember walking into that huge lobby and stomping the snow off my patent leathers onto the red carpet.

**Lois:**

Humph! I remember one year that snooty usher looked down his nose at you for doing that. (*conspiratorially*) So the next year I made sure my shoes were loaded up with snow, too. (*starting to laugh*) I just wish I hadn't worn open-toed pumps.

*Both Amy and Grandma laugh.*

**Lois:**

And now you're starting the tradition with Ashley. I'm so glad you invited me to come along.

**Amy:**

I thought this was a good year to start now that Ashley is taking ballet. I think I'm more excited than she is.

**Ashley:** (*holds up a cookie cutter*)

What's this cookie cutter, Grandma?

**Lois:**

That's Little Orphan Annie, honey.

**Ashley:**

Who?

**Lois:**

That's before your time. Actually, it's even before my time. I got a lot of these old cookie cutters from my mother.

**Ashley:**

From Grandma Great?

**Amy:**

I remember baking cookies with Grandma. I always wondered what Little Orphan Annie did.

**Lois:**

I think she fought bad guys. I remember something about her sinking Nazi submarines.

**Amy:** *(with mock alarm)*

They drafted orphans in World War Two! Those poor children!

*Ashley looks up with concern until she sees Amy and Grandma laugh then joins in, also.*

**Amy:** *(sighs)*

Christmas won't be the same this year without Grandma, especially without her homemade rolls. They were so good.

**Lois:**

I never could master those rolls. And with her gone that makes me the old lady of the family.

**Amy:**

Oh, you're not old, Mom.

**Lois:**

Well, I'm the oldest anyway. And some days I feel my age. *(taking Ashley's face in her hand)* But days like this when I get to spend time with you two - baking cookies, going out on the town, rekindling traditions - that makes it worth all the aches and pains of growing old. I wouldn't trade that for anything. Ooh! I almost forgot!

*She moves away to where the tiaras are hidden and begins to get one out.*

**Lois:**

I was thinking about all those performances of the Nutcracker we went to, and I remembered seeing little girls in the audience wearing tiaras. Well, I just thought that our Ashley should have one. She's a princess.

*Lois gives Ashley the tiara.*

**Ashley:**

It's beautiful. Thank you, Grandma. *(Ashley puts tiara on)*

**Amy:**

Thanks, Mom.

**Lois:**

I thought you would scold me for spoiling her.

**Amy:**

Oh, I think every girl is a princess.

**Lois:**

You know, I'm glad you said that. Because I got to thinking that all those years I never got you a tiara to wear to the Nutcracker. *(she pulls out a second tiara)*. So here you are! You can be a princess, too!

*Lois gives Amy the tiara. Amy stares at it and starts laughing.*

**Amy:**

Oh, Mom! *(places tiara on her head)* What do you think, Ashley? *(Ashley giggles. Amy turns to her purse)* It's funny you remember the tiaras, Mom. *(she reaches into her purse and pulls a tiara out)* Because look. I got Ashley one, too!

**Lois:** *(laughing)*

Oh no! I'm sorry. Now we have an extra.

**Ashley:**

No, we don't. You can be a princess, too, Grandma.

*They look at each other. Amy hold the tiara out to Lois. Lois hesitates and then takes it and puts it on her head. Ashley and Amy put their tiaras on, too, leaving their aprons on.*

**Lois:**

So here we are - three princesses.

**Ashley:**

Three ballerinas!

**Lois:**

Oh, I don't know about that.

**Ashley:**

Come on, Grandma. I'll show you. First, we have to learn the basics. This is first position. *(Ashley demonstrates and pauses while she waits for Amy and Lois to repeat the step)* Come on. *(waits until they repeat the step)* Good! Now, this is second position.

**Amy:**

Oh, I've got the Nutcracker CD right here.

*Amy moves to the CD player, puts in a CD and presses the play button. The Dance of the Sugar Plum Fairy begins. They all dance several seconds of the Dance of the Sugar Plum Fairy and eventually dance offstage.*

*Fade to black*

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Preview